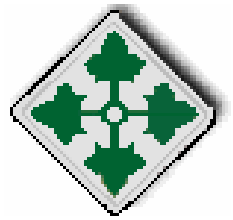




DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry
4th Infantry Division (Mechanized)
Forward Operating Base Kalsu, North Babil, Iraq



10 February 2006

To whom it may concern:

My name is Sgt Bunzel and I am in the United States Army. I have been in the army since 2002. During my four years of service I have been to Korea, Iraq for OIF1 and now OIF5. Growing up in a military town, it was always my childhood dream to join the United States Army. When I finally had a family of my own, I felt that it was the right time for me to join. As a husband, I wanted a stable job to support my family. One that I could come home to every night and be proud of what I am doing. My grandfather served two tours in Vietnam and retired as a Major after 20 years of service. As a father, I wanted my kids to grow up with a hero for a role model. One that they can be proud of and look up too, just as I look up to my grandfather. The army has taught me many valuable life lessons. Some were harder than others, but all have taught me to be a better father, a stronger soldier and a competent leader.

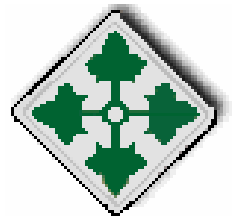
I feel very privileged to serve my country in this time of need. It brings honor upon me and my family. By bringing the fight to the enemy, I have helped make my home and many others like it a safer place. We are helping the Iraqi people come together just as our forefathers did over 230 years ago. By removing Saddam Hussein from power, we have allowed the Iraqi people to gain a foothold in their country. Making their own laws as a democracy and enforcing them with fairness and impartial punishment. They are on their way to fighting their own fights and winning their own battles. By working side by side with the IA, IP and IHP, we have shown them the skills necessary to work as a team. Putting the mission first and accomplishing it, regardless of the situation.

At FOB Kalsu the accommodations are a lot better than what we had during OIF1. The atmosphere surrounding us on camp is one of high spirits. Everyone is focused on the mission at hand, here to support each other and work as a team to accomplish our goals. The technology on the FOB is very accommodating. Moral stays high when a soldier can call home and speak to his loved ones. We can check email, pay bills and take care of business. When we roll outside the wire, we are completely focused. I can't say enough about the living quarters. Our connexes are far superior to the tight living spaces of the squad tents. We have air-conditioning, electricity and a much cleaner living area. They allow you to better secure your personal items, keeping accountability of your gear, sensitive and high-dollar items. The personal space that we get, allows us the much needed personal time to reflect on the days events and the days to come. That little bit of personal space can help a soldier stay focused on the mission at hand "Winning the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people."

2-8 Infantry's role in training the Iraqi Army is to provide experienced military personnel to conduct mini basic training to teach the volunteers of the Iraqi Army some basic soldiering skills, some examples of these are physical training, small unit tactics, rifle marksmanship. We as a whole, teach them about our army values, Loyalty, to one another and ones country,



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Duty, to themselves and family, Selfless service, to ones country, Honor, re-instilling pride in their country, Integrity, to tell the truth no matter what and Personal courage, for putting themselves and family in harms way in this time of need. We are also showing the Iraqi people the freedom of choices that they have not had in three decades.

The coalition forces have personnel working side by side with the Iraqi government guiding them on how to create a democratic country without bribery, embezzlement or favors for everyone to make the country run. This affects the stabilization of Iraq, by doing this Iran, Jordan, Syria and other Arab countries can see that the Iraqi people are capable to secure their own country. This shows all other Arab countries that democracy works and can span religious and ethnic boundaries. In turn, we are able to reduce the number of coalition forces in a timely manner.

The Iraqis' performance affects America's stability by not allowing safe havens for the insurgents to be comfortable enough to set up living areas and boot camps for training in this region. This also reduces the fear of Iraqi aggression in the surrounding countries. By them knowing that the Iraqi government will no longer tolerate that type of behavior in their country. Our over all objective is to train enough Iraqi Army, police and highway patrol personnel to sustain themselves, to give them as much governmental advice as they need and to produce a stabile government. All in all to win the Iraqi peoples hearts and minds to make our job helping them to help themselves easier.

I appreciate the time you have allowed me to explain my thoughts on the situation at hand, and I thank you.

Sincerely,

Jason Bunzel
SGT
United States Army